

REMARKS

No claims have been cancelled or added. Claim 30 has been amended. Claims 1-48 are currently pending in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and forwarding of the application onto issuance.

Objection to Drawings

The Office objects to Fig. 2 due to a missing reference numeral. The Office also points out that the box entitled Process Manager 60c is referenced in the specification as 60b. Applicant thanks the Office for its attention to detail and herewith submits a corrected Fig. 2.

The § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-10 and 25-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,757,919 to Herbert et al (hereinafter “Herbert”).

The § 103 Rejections

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbert in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,023 to Bryant et al. (hereinafter “Bryant”).

Claims 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbert in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,117 to Buer et al. (hereinafter “Buer”).

1 **Applicant's Disclosure**

2 Before Applicant specifically addresses the Office's rejections, the
3 following discussion is provided to assist the Office in appreciating the patentable
4 distinctions between Applicant's claimed embodiments and the cited references.

5 One of the problems that continues to confront traditional paging operating
6 systems concerns the treatment of sensitive information (e.g. passwords to access
7 network resources, credit card information used during an Internet shopping
8 session, and the like). For example, when an individual, using a password, logs
9 onto an operating system such as Windows NT, the individual's password can
10 typically be kept in memory for various reasons. For example, if the user locks a
11 work station and wants to later unlock it, the operating system needs to validate
12 against something. Thus, the operating system goes out to main memory and
13 compares what is typed in by a user with what is sitting in the memory. Between
14 these two points in time, however, the password may have entered the paging file
15 because the operating system may have decided that the logon process was idle.
16 Having the password in the paging file can leave it open to attack, e.g. if the
17 machine on which the paging file is located were to be physically stolen. Thus,
18 because of the nature of paging operating systems, sensitive information can
19 sometimes be undesirably placed in a paging file in secondary memory. In
20 security-sensitive installations, preventing the sensitive information from reaching
21 the paging file may be advantageous.

22 Applicant provides methods and systems to protect unencrypted sensitive
23 information from being paged out to secondary memory, such as a hard disk,
24 during paging operations. In various embodiment described in Applicant's
25 specification, a key is provided and is maintained in the main memory of a virtual
memory system. Measures are taken to protect the key such as *page-locking the*

1 **key** in the main memory to ensure that it *never gets paged out* to the secondary
2 memory. This aspect, combined with the nature of the key (i.e. a very large
3 random key) provides a degree of protection that previously was not afforded. For
4 example, if the key cannot be paged out to the paging file, then it is not susceptible
5 to capture.

6

7 **The Herbert Reference**

8 In contrast, Herbert teaches a method and system for maintaining integrity
9 and confidentiality of pages *paged to an external storage unit* from a physically
10 secure environment. An outgoing page is selected to be exported from a physically
11 secure environment to an insecure environment. An integrity check value is
12 generated and stored for the outgoing page. In one embodiment, this takes the
13 form of taking a one-way hash of the page using a well-known one-way hash
14 function. The outgoing page is then encrypted. Herbert teaches key generation
15 using a random number generator. However, there is *no teaching or suggestion to*
16 *page-lock the key or store the key in a non-pageable page.*

17

18 **Claims 1-10**

19 **Claim 1** recites, in a paging operating system having physical memory for
20 holding information and secondary storage comprising a page file for receiving
21 information that is paged out from the physical memory, a computer-implemented
22 method of protecting information comprising [emphasis added]:

23

24

25

- encrypting information using a *key that is page-locked in the physical memory*; and
- paging out, to the page file, the encrypted information.

1 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
2 teaches a method for encrypting information using a key in the physical memory
3 and paging out the encrypted information. Applicant agrees that Herbert teaches a
4 method of encrypting information using a key. Applicant also agrees that Herbert
5 teaches paging out the encrypted information. However, Applicant traverses the
6 rejection of this claim because, as noted above, Herbert ***does not teach*** encrypting
7 information using a ***key that is page-locked in the physical memory***. The Office
8 cites to column 1, lines 65-67, and column 2, lines 2-3, of Herbert in support of its
9 argument that Herbert anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Those excerpts
10 are reproduced below:

11 The outgoing page is then encrypted using a
12 cryptographically strong encryption algorithm. *Col. 1, lines*
13 *65-67.*

14 The encrypted outgoing page is then exported to the external
15 storage. *Col. 2, lines 2-3.*

16 Neither of these excerpts even *suggests* encrypting information using a key
17 that is ***page-locked*** in the physical memory. Accordingly, for at least this reason,
18 this claim is allowable.

19 **Claims 2-10** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are
20 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
21 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
22 in claim 1, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
23 singly or in combination with one another.

24 **Claims 11-18**

25 **Claim 11** recites, in a paging operating system having main memory for
holding information and secondary storage comprising a page file for receiving

1 information that is paged out from the main memory, a computer-implemented
2 method of protecting information comprising [emphasis added]:

- 3 • *page-locking a key* in main memory;
- 4 • restricting access to the *page-locked key* to only the operating
system kernel;
- 5 • calling the operating system kernel to encrypt information;
- 6 • accessing the *page-locked key* with the operating system kernel; and
- 7 • using the operating system kernel to encrypt the information with the
page-locked key.

8
9 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that the
10 combination of Herbert and Bryant render the claimed subject matter obvious.
11 Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the rejection. In making out its
12 rejection, the Office argues that Herbert discloses a method for page-locking a key
13 in main memory. In support of its argument, the Office cites to column 5, lines 59-
14 67, which is reproduced below in its entirety:

15 In one embodiment, the active pages will represent a page
16 table and one or more page frames for each piece of software.
17 For example, software 140 has page table 141 and page
18 frames 142-144 residing in secure memory. Similarly,
19 software 160 and 170 have page tables 161, 171 and page
frames 162, 172, respectively, active in the secure RAM.
Conversely, software 150 has its page table and all its page
frames paged out to the external storage unit 4.

20 Applicant respectfully submits that, not only does the cited excerpt *not*
21 *teach* encrypting information using a key that is *page-locked* in the physical
22 memory, the cited excerpt does not even *mention* a key. As noted above, Herbert
23 does make use of a randomly-generated key, but there is no teaching or suggestion
24 that the key is *page-locked* in the physical memory. In addition, the cited sections
25 of Bryant do not provide this missing feature.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

1 **Claims 12-18** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11 and are
2 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
3 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
4 in claim 11, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
5 singly or in combination with one another.

6

7 **Claims 19-24**

8 **Claim 19** recites, in a paging operating system having main memory for
9 holding information and secondary storage comprising a page file for receiving
10 information that is paged out from the main memory, a computer-implemented
11 method of handling encrypted information comprising [emphasis added]:

12 • accessing encrypted information in the page file; and
13 • decrypting the encrypted information with a *key that is page-locked
in the main memory*.

14

15 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office states that Herbert does
16 not disclose a method for decrypting the encrypted information with a key that is
17 page-locked in the main memory. Applicant agrees. The Office then argues that
18 Buer supplies the missing feature. Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the
19 rejection. In support of its argument, the Office cites to column 2, lines 27-36, of
20 Buer, which is reproduced below in its entirety:

21

22 In the preferred embodiment, the processor uses an
23 encryption engine which to decrypt the first data and encrypt
24 the second data. For example, the encryption engine performs
25 a DES encrypt operation to decrypt the first data. Likewise,
the encryption engine performs a DES decrypt operation to
encrypt the second data. Alternatively, other
encryption/decryption algorithms may be used.

Also in the preferred embodiment, a memory controller is

1 used to access unencrypted data stored in the external
2 memory.

3 Applicant respectfully submits that, not only does the cited excerpt ***not***
4 ***teach*** decrypting the encrypted information with a key that is ***page-locked*** in the
5 main memory, this excerpt does not even ***mention*** the key. As such, there is no
6 teaching or suggestion of a key is ***page-locked*** in the main memory.

7 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

8 **Claims 20-24** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 19 and are
9 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
10 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
11 in claim 19, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
12 singly or in combination with one another.

13 **Claims 25-29**

14 **Claim 25** recites, in a paging operating system having main memory for
15 holding information and secondary storage comprising a page file for receiving
16 information that is paged out from the main memory, a computer-implemented
17 method of protecting information comprising [emphasis added]:
18

- 19 • allocating a non-pageable page of main memory;
- 20 • generating a random key; and
- 21 • ***storing the random key in the non-pageable page of main memory,***
the random key being configured for use by the operating system to
encrypt information that might be paged out to the page file.

22 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
23 anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Applicant strongly disagrees and
24 traverses the rejection. In making out its rejection, the Office apparently cites to
25 column 2, lines 2-3, to support its argument that Herbert teaches storing a random

1 key in a non-pageable page of main memory. The cited excerpt is reproduced
2 below:

3 The encrypted outgoing page is then exported to the external
4 storage.

5 Applicant respectfully submits that, not only does the cited excerpt ***not***
6 ***teach*** storing a random key in a ***non-pageable*** page of main memory, the excerpt
7 does not even ***mention*** a key. As noted above, Herbert does make use of randomly-
8 generated key, but there is no teaching or suggestion that the key is stored in a
9 ***non-pageable*** page of main memory.

10 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

11 **Claims 26-29** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 25 and are
12 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
13 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
14 in claim 25, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
15 singly or in combination with one another.

16

17 **Claims 30-35**

18 As amended, **claim 30** recites, in an operating system having main memory
19 for holding information and secondary storage for receiving information that is
20 transferred out of main memory, a computer-implemented method of protecting
21 information comprising [emphasis added]:

22

23

24

25

- generating at least one ***non-pageable random key*** by using a random key generation process;
- encrypting at least one selected block of information in the main memory with a software component that uses the at least one random key for encryption;
- transferring the one encrypted block of information to the secondary storage;

1

- decrypting the one encrypted block of information with the software component that uses at least one random key for decryption; and
- placing the decrypted block of information in the main memory.

2

3

In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
4 anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Applicant strongly disagrees and
5 traverses the rejection. In making out its rejection, the Office cites to column 2,
6 lines 63-67, and column 3, lines 1-5, to support its argument. That excerpt is
7 reproduced below in its entirety:

8

9 An encryption/decryption engine 12 encrypts outgoing pages
10 and decrypts incoming pages at the interface before sending
11 them to the external storage 4 or integrity check engine 13,
12 respectively, thereby providing a confidentiality service. A
13 random number generator 18 is coupled to bus 17 to generate
keying material for the encryption engine 12. An incoming
page is decrypted by encryption engine 12 and passed to the
integrity check engine 13 which calculates a one-way hash
value of the incoming page.

14

15 Applicant respectfully submits that, not only does the cited excerpt ***not***
16 ***teach*** generating at least one ***non-pageable random key***, the excerpt does not even
17 ***mention*** a key. As noted above, Herbert does make use of a randomly-generated
18 key, but there is no teaching or suggestion to generate at least one ***non-pageable***
19 key by using a random key generation process.

20 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

21 **Claims 31-35** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 30 and are
22 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
23 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
24 in claim 30, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
25 singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claims 36-40**

2 **Claim 36** recites a system for use in protecting pageable information
3 comprising [emphasis added]:

4 • a memory having pageable and non-pageable pages; and
5 • at least one ***key stored in the memory in a non-pageable page***, the
6 key being configured for use in encrypting pageable information.

7 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
8 anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Applicant strongly disagrees and
9 traverses the rejection. In making out its rejection, the Office cites to column 5,
10 lines 26-29, to support its argument. That excerpt is reproduced below:

11 One embodiment of the invention employs a paging hierarchy
12 in which the page directory always resides in the secure RAM
13 14 and a page table is associated with each application.

14 Applicant respectfully submits that, not only does the cited excerpt ***not teach*** at least one ***key stored in the memory in a non-pageable page***, the excerpt
15 does not even *mention* a key. As noted above, Herbert does make use of randomly-
16 generated key, but there is no teaching or suggestion to store at least one key in the
17 memory in a ***non-pageable*** page.
18

19 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

20 **Claims 37-40** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 36 and are
21 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
22 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited
23 in claim 36, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
24 singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claim 41**

2 **Claim 41** recites a computer program embodied on one or more computer-
3 readable media, the program comprising [emphasis added]:

4 • encrypting information with a ***key that is page-locked in main***
5 ***memory*** of a computer;
6 • paging out, to secondary storage, the encrypted information;
7 • accessing the encrypted information in the secondary storage; and
8 • decrypting the encrypted information with the ***key that is page-***
locked in the main memory.

9 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
10 discloses encrypting information with a key that is page-locked in main memory.
11 Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the rejection of this claim because, as
12 noted above, Herbert ***does not teach*** encrypting information with a ***key that is***
13 ***page-locked in main memory.*** The Office cites to column 1, lines 65-67, and
14 column 2, lines 2-3, of Herbert in support of its argument. Those excerpts are
15 reproduced below:

16 The outgoing page is then encrypted using a
17 cryptographically strong encryption algorithm. *Col. 1, lines*
18 *65-67.*

19 The encrypted outgoing page is then exported to the external
20 storage. *Col. 2, lines 2-3.*

21 Neither of the cited excerpts even *suggests* encrypting information with a
22 key that is ***page-locked*** in main memory. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this
23 claim is allowable.

24 **Claims 42-46**

25 **Claim 42** recites a programmable computer comprising [emphasis added]:

- 1 • a processor;
- 2 • main memory for holding information;
- 3 • secondary storage for receiving information that is temporarily
- 4 transferred out of the main memory;
- 5 • the computer being programmed with computer-readable
- 6 instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the
- 7 computer to:
 - 8 ○ encrypt information that is to be transferred to the secondary
 - 9 storage ***with a key that is locked in the main memory;***
 - 10 ○ transfer the encrypted information to the secondary storage;
 - 11 and
 - 12 ○ decrypt the encrypted information with a key that is locked in
 - 13 the main memory.

14 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
15 discloses encrypting information with a key that is page-locked in main memory.
16 Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the rejection of this claim because, as
17 noted above, Herbert ***does not teach*** encrypting information that is to be
18 transferred to the secondary storage with a ***key that is locked in the main memory.***
19 The Office cites to column 1, lines 65-67, and column 2, lines 2-3, of Herbert in
20 support of its argument. Those excerpts are reproduced below:

21 The outgoing page is then encrypted using a
22 cryptographically strong encryption algorithm. *Col. 1, lines*
23 *65-67.*

24 The encrypted outgoing page is then exported to the external
25 storage. *Col. 2, lines 2-3.*

26 Neither of the cited excerpts even *suggests* encrypting information that is to
27 be transferred to the secondary storage with a key that is ***locked*** in the main
28 memory. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

29 **Claims 43-46** depend either directly or indirectly from claim 42 and are
30 allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also
31 allowable for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited

1 in claim 42, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record either
2 singly or in combination with one another.

3

4 **Claim 47**

5 **Claim 47** recites one or more application programming interfaces
6 embodied on one or more computer-readable media for execution on a computer
7 in conjunction with a paging operating system having main memory for holding
8 information and a page file for receiving information that is paged out from the
9 main memory, comprising [emphasis added]:

10 • an interface method for encrypting pageable information with a *key*
11 *that is page-locked in the main memory*; and
12 • an interface method for decrypting encrypted information that is
 contained in the page file.

13

14 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
15 anticipates this claim. Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the rejection of
16 this claim because, as noted above, Herbert **does not teach** an interface method for
17 encrypting pageable information with a *key that is page-locked in the main*
18 *memory*. The Office cites to column 2, lines 63-67, of Herbert in support of its
19 argument. That excerpt is reproduced below:

20 An encryption/decryption engine 12 encrypts outgoing pages
21 and decrypts incoming pages at the interface before sending
22 them to the external storage 4 or integrity check engine 13,
 respectively, thereby providing a confidentiality service.

23 The cited excerpt does not even *suggest* an interface method for encrypting
24 pageable information with a key that is *page-locked* in the main memory.
25 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

1 **Claim 48**

2 **Claim 48** recites an application programming interface embodied on a
3 computer-readable medium for execution on a computer in conjunction with a
4 paging operating system having main memory for holding information and
5 secondary storage comprising a page file for receiving information that is paged
6 out from the main memory, comprising a method for setting an attribute on a page
7 of main memory, the attribute designating that the page must be encrypted with a
8 ***key that is page-locked in the main memory*** prior to the page being paged out to
9 the page file.

10 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Herbert
11 anticipates this claim. Applicant strongly disagrees and traverses the rejection of
12 this claim because, as noted above, Herbert ***does not teach*** a method for setting an
13 attribute on a page of main memory in which the attribute designates that the page
14 must be encrypted with a ***key that is page-locked in the main memory*** prior to the
15 page being paged out to the page file. The Office cites to column 1, lines 60-63,
16 and column 3, lines 13-15, in support of its argument. Those excerpts are
17 reproduced below:

18 An outgoing page is selected to be exported from a physically
19 secure environment to an insecure environment. An integrity
20 check value is generated and stored for the outgoing page.
Col. 1, lines 60-63.

21 But, it is within the scope and contemplation of the invention
22 that either or both engines may be implemented as software.
Col. 3, lines 13-15.

23 The cited excerpt does not even *suggest* a method for setting an attribute on
24 a page of main memory, the attribute designating that the page must be encrypted
25 with a key that is ***page-locked*** in the main memory prior to the page being paged
out to the page file.

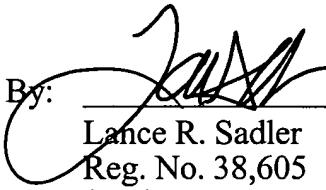
1 Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is allowable.
2
3

4 **Conclusion**
5
6

7 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant
8 requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next
9 anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability,
10 Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted for the purpose of scheduling
11 an interview.
12
13

14 Respectfully submitted,
15

16 Dated: 3/24/04

17 By: 
18 Lance R. Sadler
19 Reg. No. 38,605
20 (509) 324-9256 ext. 226
21
22
23
24
25